**MERRY OF BARTON BLOUNT, DERBYS**
**MERRY OF BRISLINGCOTE, DERBYS**
**MERRY OF RADBOURNE, DERBYS**

ARMS: Ermine three lions rampant gules ducally crowned or and a canton of the second

CREST: Out of a crescent coronet a demi-lion rampant ermine ducally crowned

**John Merry of London c1517-....**
Will (---) 24 Apr 1592/29 Apr 1594
(lord and patron of Barton Blount, Derbys, by purchase from James Blount 6th Baron Mountjoy c1533-1581 **[SLG]**) a1571
(presented at Barton Blount) 1571 & 1574 [COX III 9]
chn: Henry Merry below

*JOHN MERRYE of Barton Parke, Gentleman. 24 April 1592. In bodily health. Soul into the hands of almighty God my creator who of his omnipotency made me an of his mercy redeemed me, trusting assuredly that through the painful suffering, death and passion and glorious resurrection of his son our only saviour Jesus Christe, I shall have after this life clear and free remission and forgiveness of all my sins and everlasting life prepared by God the father in heaven for his elect and chosen people. Body to the earth to be buried, also trusting it shall have a most joyful resurrection. I will, that my funerals be done decently without pomp or vainglory at the good discretion of my executrix, wheresoever it shall please God to take it to his mercy. All such debts as I shall owe to any person at the time of my decease (if any such be) shall be well and truly paid by my executrix. And as touching the disposition of all my goods and chattels which God in mercy has blessed me with, in this world, it is passed by other writings betwixt my wife and my son HENRY MERRY, so that I give none of it in my will but that my wife will do of her portion as my trust is in her. To my son LATHBERY, his children – every one of them, One Ewe Hog. To my son GREGSON, his children – every [one] of them, that he has by my daughter, One Ewe Hog. I give my brother ALLSOPPE 20s. To the poor of Broughton – a strike of wheat to be baked in bread and given on Midlent Sunday at the house of Barton To the poor of Boylston – a strike of wheat to be given the same day. To the poor of Sutton – a strike of wheat to be given as aforesaid. To the poor of Langford parish – a bushel of wheat to those that stand in great need to be baked in bread and given on Midlent Sunday at my house at Barton. To JOHN ALLSOPE, one ewe hog. To ROGER TATTON, a coat and a pair of my breeches at the discretion of my executrix, my wife. The resideue of all my goods, chattels and debts, after my debts paid, my funeral expenses performed and these my legacies paid, to my wife and to my son HENRY to be dealt equally betwixt them. Executrix: AGNES my wife. Overseers: my son ARTHUR LATHBERY and my son THOMAS GRIGSON, praying them always during their lives to assist my wife as well with their counsel as otherwise. And to either of them 10s to be paid by my wife. SIGNED & SEALED (John Merrye/Merry) To my daughter LATHBERY and my daughter GRIGSON, either of them 10s. To HENRY MERRY, JOHN MERRYE and EDMOND MERRYE each of them One Ewe Hog. And the blessings of God be with them, Amen. By me John Merrye, their Grandfather. [No Witnesses] Proved at London 29 april 1594, by Thomas Browne, notary public, proctor for AGNES, relict and executrix, with administration of goods. [PROB 11/83, q.33] [Derbyshire Wills 1575-1601 144-5]*

**Henry Merry of Barton Blount, Derbys c1547-....**
m Margaret Palmer of Kegworth, Leics
(his wife Margaret, fined as a recusant) 1594 [COX III 8]
chn: Henry Merry [1] b c1577 below
John Merry [2] b c1580 below
Edmund Merry [3] further below
[?] Cyprian Merry m Eleanor Fitzherbert dau of Robert Fitzherbert of Somersal Herbert, Derbys c1555-c1619 **[SLG]**

**Sir Henry Merry of Barton Blount, Derbys Knight c1577-....**
m Elizabeth Vernon dau of Walter Vernon of Houndhill in Marchington, Staffs c1551-1593 **[SLG]**
(living) 1611
chn: Henry Merry below

**Henry Merry of Barton Blount, Derbys c1607-....**
chn: John Merry below
Elizabeth Merry below

**John Merry of Barton Blount, Derbys c1637-....**

(presented at Barton Blount) 1662 [COX III 9]

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**Elizabeth Merry**
m Richard Simpson
chn: Merry Simpson b c1667 below
Elizabeth Simpson m Thomas Brown of Bentley

**Merry Simpson of Barton Blount, Derby c1667-....**
(presented at Barton Blount) 7 May 1697 [COX III 9]
(retired to a French monastery) 1700

*(1717) Merry Simpson of Barton Blount. Freehold estate; a farm at Marston for the benefit of her[?] sister, who maried Thomas Brown, of Bentley. £346/1/7/6 "This sister was Alice Simpson. They were the daughters[?] of Richard Simpson, of Barton, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Merry, of Barton, possibly an uncle of the John Merry, named in the Visitation as aet 4 in 1662. [NONJURORS 34]*

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**John Merry of Brislingcote, Derbys c1580-a1653**
m Ann -----
Will (PCC) 24 Oct 1651/18 May 1653
chn: Gilbert Merry b c1610
George Merry m Dorothy -----

*(24 Oct 1651) ... I John Merry of Brislingcote ... to my beloved wife Anne Merry and to Dorothy Merry my daughter [? recte daughter-in-law] all my goods [except ...] ... unto my sonne Gilbert Merry ... William Dakin [executor] ... [proved 18 May 1653]*

*(18 Jun 1657) Feoffment by John Merry late of Brissingcoate [Brizlincote] esq., Dorothy Merry relict of George Merry son of John, and William Dakin of the same yeoman, to Francis Willughby of the Inner Temple gent., and Thomas Hood of Whitwick county Leicester gent., of messuages and lands in Kniveton and Stanton. Consideration unspecified. [D37/MR/T/210]*

*(Michaelmas 1657) Final concord between Francis Willughbie and Thomas Hood gent. plaintiffs and John Gilbert gent., Anne Merry widow, Dorothy Merry widow and William Dakyn deforciants, of the premises in D37 M/RT210 above. Consideration £300. [D37/MR/T/212]*

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**Edmund Merry**
m Joyce Hawford dau of Edward Hawford of Kegworth, Leics
chn: Valentine Merry below

**Valentine Merry of Radbourne, Derbys c1637-....**
m Ann Turner dau of George Turner
(aged 36) 1663
(2 hearths) 1664
chn: John Merry b c1659; (aged 4) 1663 below
Margaret Merry
Ann Merry
Mary Merry

*Mr Valentine Merry desires his Coat sent him, with his due distinction. Confirmed from you, he suffred loss of all his Estate in the late Kings service & in his necessity married meanly.*

*(20 Oct 1651) Will of William Merry of Radbourne, PCC, ... I will that my kinsman Valentine Merry of Mugginton shall enjoy my farms at Radburne 20 Oct 1651/12 Dec 1651*

*(1665) Plaintiffs: Robert Barnfield and Elizabeth Barnfield his wife; Defendants: [unknown] Pegg, Valentine Merry and others; Subject: personal estate of the deceased Francis Cotton, of Radbourne, Derbyshire. [C 6/39/19]*

**John Merry of Radbourne, Derbys c1659-....**
chn: John Merry below

**John Merry of Radbourne, Derbys c1699-....**

*(1720) Plaintiffs: John Merry of Radbourne, Derbyshire (son and heir of John Merry deceased, late of Radbourne, who was son and heir of Valentine Merry, deceased, who was son and heir of Edmund Merry, deceased, who was brother of Sir Henry Merry kt, deceased, late of Barton, Derbyshire). Defendants: Frances Simpson, widow, Merry Simpson, gent, an infant (by James Grove, esq, his guardian) and John Challoner. [C 11/650/8]*

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**Gilbert Merry**
(7 hearths, Kingsley) 1666 HT

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**Gilbert Merry of Kniveton, Derbys c1670-....**
m Mary Rider dau of Nicholas Rider of Greet in West Bromwich, Staffs "gentleman" c1644-1703 and Ann Palin dau of Richard Palin of Dearnsdale in Bradley, Staffs gentleman 1595-1662 **[SLG]**
(executor of will of father-in-law Nicholas Rider together with a cousin Thomas Palin) 15 Feb 1704.5
chn: Mary Merry c 28 Jul 1700 Kniveton
Gilbert Merry c 14 Jun 1702 Kniveton; d *young*
Thomas Merry c 14 Jul 1703 Kniveton below
Dorothy Merry c 9 Oct 1708 Kniveton; m 26 Sep 1734 Kniveton: Joseph Wibberley of Kniveton, Derbys c1705-.... QV
Elizabeth Merry c 6 Sep 1707 Kniveton
Dorothy Merry c 14 May 1710 Kniveton
George Merry c 15 Apr 1715 Kniveton

*(May 1696) Articles of agreement between Thomas Goodwyn of Derby, woollen draper, Sir Philip Gell, William Clough of Middleton by Wirksworth, yeoman, Henry Fern of Kniveton, yeoman, George Yates of Kniveton, clerk, Roger Wilson of Wormhill clerk, Philip Gell of Wirksworth, yeoman, Ralph Gell of Midleton by Wirksworth, and John and Gilbert Merry of Kniveton gents, re exchange of beastgates at Kniveton. [D258/40/20/10]*

*(1715) Gilbert Merry, of Kniveton, gent. – Freehold estate there, and one called the "Stoney Croft" for life.– £60 13s. Perhaps, a son of John Merry (aet. 4, in 1662, Visit, of Derby), In "Douay Diary" p. 63, occurs the following: "Die primo anni 1737, juramentum alumnorum praestitit, natus 1715, April 11, Diacesis Lichfieldensis, in rhaetorica. Georgius Merry, pius, diligens, bona indole, bonae spei juvenis.". He may have been a son of Gilbert. In an indenture, dated Nov. 2, 1723 Thomas is named as eldest son of Gilbert and Mary Merry.– [Close Roll, 11 Geo I Pt 11-18] [ENGLISH CATHOLIC NONJURORS]*

**Thomas Merry of Haughton, Staffs gentleman 1703-1768**
c 14 Jul 1703 Kniveton
m1 Susanna -----; i 24 May 1762 Haughton
m2 (by licence) 12 Feb 1763 Haughton: Hannah Evans; 1765 E hw
i 24 Nov 1768 Haughton; Will (Lichfield) 10 Oct 1765/5 Dec 1768 [abstract below]

(a Coton freeholder, late Mr Palins) COT/HER
(as Mr Merry, paid 1/6¾) 1762 [Thomas Palin, 1733] CRR9
(Richard Turner is overseer for Mr Merry) 1762
(as Mr Merry, assessed on £37) 1765-1768 P28

chn: Thomas Merry b c1742 below
[2] Gilbert Merry c 12 Feb 1764 Haughton
Thomas Merry c 3 Mar 1766 Haughton
Elizabeth Merry c 26 Dec 1767 Haughton
[?] George Merry i 21 Mar 1790 Haughton
[?] Ann Merry b c1774; i *aged 43* 26 Nov 1817 Haughton

*Thomas Merrey of Haughton (gentleman) 10 Oct 1765/5 Dec 1768; Executors: Hannah (wife); Witnesses: Thomas Hammersley; William Butler; Joseph Wibberley; Mentions: George Cookes (friend)*

**Thomas Merry of Haughton, Staffs gentleman c1742-1764**
m c1763 Scotland (see Haughton PR): Jane Turner; m2 (by licence) 31 Mar 1765
Haughton: John Bond of Colwich
i *aged 22, the younger* 19 Jun 1764 [gravestone 4]; Adm (Lichfield) 15 Aug 1770 below
chn: Richard Merry c *as son of Thomas the younger* 5 Oct 1763 below

*Thomas Merry of Haughton (gentleman); 15 Aug 1770; Administration to: Richard Turner of Haughton (yeoman, father in law); Bondsmen: Richard Turner of Haughton (yeoman); John Bond of Hickson (husbandman); William Baker of "The Close", Lichfield; Inventory: [none] under £20; George Hand states that TM died over 4 years ago and that Jane (dau of Richard Turner, widow of Thomas Merry, and now wife of John Bond) renounced. Richard Turner was guardian of Richard Merry (aged 5-7, son of TM & Jane)*

**Richard Merry of Haughton, Staffs gentleman 1763-1798**
c *as son of Thomas the younger* 5 Oct 1763 Haggard, H. Rider
[? m 1 Oct 1783 Coppenhall: Elizabeth Riley]
i *aged 35 as Mr.* 13 Mar 1798 [gravestone 4]
(in guardianship of grandfather Richard Turner) 1770 fa
1782 W
(his trustees later himself, owner and sometime occupier £1/16/8 or £1/16/3 or £1/16/0) 1781-1795 LT63
(his trustees later himself, owner £3/6/4) 1781-1792 [Various Owners 1794] LT68
(with John Bond, sold land to Elizabeth Reynolds) 1794 [STEPS]
chn: [?] Elizabeth Merry b c1795 Penkridge; m 26 Apr 1818 Chebsey: Charles Barnes;
(and had chn) [a descendant Mark Wheaver, 31 Wigmore Avenue, SWINDON, SN3 1ES (4/2002) <mark@wheaver.net>]

*A 1786 manuscript relating to a release regarding buildings and various parcels of land in the county of Stafford. The parties involved are William Henry [?Merry] Wybberley of Woodhead, Derby gent and others, releasing Francis Whitgreave esquire. The others are Ann his wife, George Merry and Gilbert Merry all of which are three of the younger children of Thomas Henry [?recte Merry] the Elder. Further details are given about where they live and what job they do. The buildings and parcels of land are in Dearnsdols? Woollaston, Haughton, Blakehough, Denrington, Colon Clanford, in the several parishes of Haughton, Bradley and Seighford all in the county of Stafford. It recites an indenture made in 1753. It gives a lot of details regarding family history and the legal requirements of various parties and how those positions have changed with time. It then states that Francis Whitgreave will pay the above parties six hundred pounds in return for them consenting to a release.*

Mr. URBAN, *Aug.* 15.

I SHOULD be much obliged to any gentleman who can favour me with Memoirs (or with a reference to them) of Sir Thomas Merry, knight, one of the clerks comptrollers of the Green Cloth to King James I. and a great favourite with that Monarch, who in 1606, and again in 1612, gave him large grants of lands. He purchased Gopsal in Leicestershire in 1618; but more of him I know not. Of Sir *Henry Merry* (probably his son) an Epitaph is given by Bancroft, and another for *Walter Merry*.

In Aldbury-church, Surrey, is the epitaph of Dame *Elizabeth Merrye*, consort of Thomas Merrye, esq. of Gopsal, who died in 1652; and at Brewood, in Staffordshire, is the epitaph of Mary-Magdalen, wife of Gilbert Merry.

Yours, &c. M. GREEN.

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In the name of God Amen I John Merry of Brissingcott beinge in health of body and in good and perfect Memorye doe make this my last Will and Testament in Manner and forme followinge (viz.) I give and bequeath my soule unto Almighty God my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ hopinge to bee saved by the Merritts of his death and passion Item I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Anne Merry and to Dorothy Merry my daughter all my Goods Chattells and Cattell moveables and unmoveables (except some Cattell hereafter mentioned) which are mine of myne Item I give Towne of my best Ewes and Towne of my best Lambs unto my sonne Gilbert Merry Item I give him one Gray Filly and one Sorrell Fillys mother hee hath in his possession Item I give unto every one of my household Servants Two shillings Six pence apeece Item I desire my Debts may bee paid Item I doe hereby Constitute and Ordayne William Dakin to bee my full and sole Executor for the performance of this my last Will and Testament And for his paynes and care therein taken I give him the said William Dakin fourty shillings In Witnesse whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and Seale this Twenty fourth of October Anno Dni 1651. John Merry. Signed Sealed and Published in the Presence of us whose names are here Subscribed P. Farvile. Thomas Swinglehurst Joane Fearnehor Marke

This Will was Proved at Westm the Eighteenth day of May in the yeare 1653 before the Judges for Probate of Wills and grantinge Administrations According to an Act of Parliament entituled an Act for Probate of Wills and grantinge Administrations by the oath of William Dakin the sole Executor &c To whom was Comitted Administration &c he being Sworne by vertue of a Comission truly to Administer